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SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: MEDIA ATTENTION, NOVEMBER 10-30, 2004

1. (U) In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

2. (U) Published November 30, 2004 by the International Office on Migration (IOM) at <http://www.iom.int/>:

BEGIN TEXT:

The 88th session of the IOM governing body will open on Tuesday, 30 November 2004, in Conference Room XVII at the Palais des Nations.

This year's Council session "International Dialogue on Migration" will focus on Valuing Migration: the costs, benefits, opportunities and challenges of migration.

In his opening presentation Gervais Appave, IOM's Director of Migration Policy and Research, will outline the opportunities and challenges posed by migration today and in the future. He will emphasize that "It would, of course, be a mistake to measure the value of migration solely in economic terms. Migration is linked not only to national and global economic growth and prosperity but also to such complex issues as international security and human rights, public health and national identity. It has political, social, cultural and other effects, including the very important "human dimension", in addition to its economic effects."

On Tuesday afternoon, the following guest speakers will take part in the discussions:

- Carolina Barco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia;
- Des Browne, Minister of State for Citizenship, Immigration and Nationality of the United Kingdom;
- Viktor Ivanov, Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation;
- Riaz H. Khokhar, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; and
- Qiao Zonghuai, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.
- N. K. Singh, Member of the Global Commission on International Migration, chairman of the Management Development Institute of India will serve as commentator.

On the second day of the Council, as part of the Dialogue, a Year in Review session will highlight major developments in international migration and a workshop on the Image of Migrants in Society will be held in the afternoon.

Professor Dr. Rita Sus-smuth, Member of the Global Commission on International Migration, Chair of the Independent Council of Experts on Immigration and Integration, appointed by the German Government, will present an overview of the issue.

During this year's Council session, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Republic of Estonia will be admitted as IOM's newest Member States. This will bring the number of IOM Member States to 107. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), has applied for observer status.

The Director General, Brunson McKinley will hold a breakfast with journalists on Thursday 25 November from 09h00 to 10h30 at the Restaurant des Dlgus at the Palais des Nations.

All Council documents are available on the IOM Website. Members of the press are welcome to attend the Council session and discussions.

For more information, contact
Media and Public Information

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11

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13. (U) Published November 30, 2004 by the International
The IOM Mission in Albania is holding a three-day workshop for experts working to combat the trafficking in human beings.

Law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, NGO staff, and others involved in the fight against trafficking of human beings from Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Albania, Belarus, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine, are attending the event, which began on Monday in Tirana.

The participants will discuss the elaboration of a Code of Conduct containing guidelines based on the Italian experience to efficiently combat the trafficking in human beings on a joint transnational level.

The workshop is part of the IOM/EU project "Establishment of the Network of and Joint Training for Operational Law Enforcement Officers, NGOs and IOs in Fighting Human Trafficking into the EU Member States from EU Accession Countries and Countries Bordering the EU after Enlargement," implemented under the European Commission Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs' AGIS Programme 2003, with co-funding granted by selected EU Member States.

According to IOM's Chief of Mission in Albania, Maurizio Bussati, Tirana was chosen to host this event in recognition of substantial progress made by Albania towards meeting European standards to fight trafficking and provide assistance to victims.

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END TEXT.

14. (U) Published November 23, 2004 by AKI Press Kyrgyzstan:

TITLE: Uzbek Prostitutes Look to New Markets

BEGIN TEXT: The economic crisis at home has forced prostitutes to expand their horizons.

When Israel deported Gulnora for prostitution last month she came home to Samarkand by plane. Her journey to get there one year earlier was rather more complicated.

First Gulnora - not her real name - was taken by a pimp from Tashkent to Moscow, and then flown to Egypt. She and five others were handed over to a Bedouin, who took them on a long and dangerous ride to Israel by camel.

"Our journey lasted nine days, and we were lucky we didn't encounter Israeli border troops," she said, adding that some women making the same journey have been killed by guards while others have been raped by their Bedouin guides.

The United Arab Emirates, where Uzbeks make up the largest group of foreign prostitutes, used to be the destination of choice for women like Gulnora. Some travel agencies in Tashkent even offer a visa service to speed up the process. But competition there is fierce, and Gulnora is among a growing number of prostitutes employed by pimps looking to expand into new markets like Israel, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Bahrain and Iran. South Korea - which has strong trade links with Uzbekistan - is another popular destination, though customers there are mainly Uzbek men working away from home so the women say the earnings are not as good.

But the authorities in some of these countries are now cracking down. According to a Thai women's group, 228 Uzbek women were arrested and deported from Thailand last year. In Israel, which is almost impossible to enter legally,

more than 250 have been sent home in the past year alone.

Gulnora - who saw up to 15 clients a day and earned enough in six months to pay back the 5,000 US dollars she owed her pimp - arrived back in Uzbekistan with just 10 dollars in her pocket. That money was taken by customs officers at Tashkent airport.

Nodyra Karimova, head of a non-government group in Uzbekistan which works to end the trafficking of women and which helped bring Gulnora home, said more people are turning to prostitution as the economic crisis in the country worsens.

To escape poverty, there are even some mothers who offer their daughters to pimps and ask for them to be sent abroad to work as prostitutes. An Uzbek women's centre told of two cases where madams took their own underage children to work in brothels.

Other women, however, are tricked into going abroad by promises of jobs as cleaners or cooks. Their passports are confiscated by the pimps and if they refuse to work they may be beaten up. When the debt for their journey overseas is settled, the women are often sold on to another pimp.

After years of ignoring the problem, Uzbekistan last year signed an international convention on sexual exploitation and trafficking of women.

Five madams have been charged, but later released under President Islam Karimov's annual amnesty. Because of the amnesty, the pimp of an underage orphan who was raped, beaten and had her face burned with cigarettes was allowed out of jail. The girl's aunt, who sold her for 50 dollars, also went free.

"This happens every year," said Maya Kurbanova, a legal expert from an Uzbek women's centre. "Ninety per cent of the pimps are women, and their husbands and brothers help them from abroad or home. Because it is not punished, the traffic of women in Uzbekistan continues to flourish."

Despite the tragic stories, some state officials are unsympathetic to the plight of Uzbek prostitutes.

The head of the women's affairs committee at the Samarkand governor's office, Farogat Shakirova, blames the women themselves for their problems, and denies the growth of prostitution among Uzbek women is linked to the country's economic woes.

"They simply don't want to work, so they look for easy ways to earn a lot of money" said Shakirova. "They are simply immoral women. When they are abroad, why don't they work as cleaners in factories like other Uzbek people do? Even in the difficult [Second World] War years women starved, but kept their honour and dignity."

Samarkand human rights activist Salima Kadyrova said the authorities won't acknowledge the problem because they themselves are to blame for Uzbekistan's current crisis.

"The state must not create conditions that allow prostitution to develop on a massive scale," she said. "What sort of monstrous society are we creating?" END TEXT.

15. (U) Published November 22, 2004 by Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: A 16-year old girl asked for help from Jandarma teams claiming that she was forced by her family to live with somebody.

According to the Provincial Jandarma Command, S.S. (16) applied to the Nurdagi Jandarma Command in the Esenyurt district of the Nurdagi sub-province of Gaziantep. She claimed that her mother Zeynep B. and stepfather Ibrahim B. forced her to live with Fatih G. Jandarma detained the mother and the stepfather.

An investigation is ongoing. END TEXT.

16. (U) Published November 22, 2004 by Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

TITLE: 94 people, including 93 foreigners, were captured in the last two days along the border in Edirne.

BEGIN TEXT: The Jandarma, police and border patrol

captured the illegal immigrants who wanted to go to Greece.

They included 56 Iraqis, 20 Pakistanis, six Maurititanians, four Bengalis, two Indians, two Somalis, one Moroccans, on Syrian, one Iranian and one Turk. Foreigners were sent to the Edirne Police for deportation.

A judicial investigation is ongoing on the captured Turk. END TEXT.

17. (U) Published November 20, 2004 by the Pakistan daily Times:

TITLE: 2 men trying to get visa on fake reference letter held; By Khawaja Naseer

BEGIN TEXT: LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday arrested two members of a six-member human trafficking gang who tried to get Iranian visas on fake reference letters issued on the letterhead of Punjab Tourism Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, sources told Daily Times on Friday.

Mahtab Khan, gang leader, and George Masih got fake accreditation letters of the minister and applied for the visa, sources said, adding, that the FIA had already received several complaints against Mahtab Khan and George Masih, who had planned to enter Europe through Iran, Turkey and Italy.

Sources told Daily Times that when the Iranian Embassy contacted the provincial minister for verification, it was revealed that the accreditation letters were not genuine. The embassy then contacted the FIA, which arrested the culprits from Township. Talking to Daily Times, Chaudhry Tanveer Ahmad, the FIA regional director, said investigations were underway and the agency would arrest the remaining members of the gang soon.

Talking to Daily Times, the provincial tourism minister said his private secretary had lodged a case against the swindlers who procured his fake reference letter.

Sources told Daily Times that it was not the first attempt by human traffickers to obtain visas on accreditation letters of ministers or assembly members. They said that a month ago the FIA arrested another gang who tried to obtain visas for European countries on fake letterheads of six Punjab Assembly members. END TEXT.

18. (U) Published November 17, 2004 by Turkish language Zaman News:

Title: Women Coming for Prostitution Attempted to be Hidden at the Shelter; Sedat Gunec - Ankara

BEGIN TEXT: Human traffickers attempted to take advantage of the opportunities granted for the victims of prostitution in order to get residence permits for the foreign women they brought to Turkey. Interior Ministry got activated upon the efforts of traffickers in placing the women they have brought from eastern block countries in the shelters established for victims pulled into prostitution. Deputy Undersecretary Sebati Buyuran instructed that such initiatives should be obstructed.

The Interior Ministry put into implementation the project prepared by the Human Resources Development Foundation with the purpose of collapsing the prostitution networks. The foreign women who fall in the hands of prostitution networks are not immediately deported if they cooperate with security units. They are placed at the shelter established in Istanbul. The victimized women are provided protection services as well as psychological support. Those who need treatment are sent to health institutions and treated. Thus those who are subject to human trafficking are encouraged to cooperate with the security units so that security would reach to criminals.

Sub-title: Coordination Among Countries is Aimed

These women are put under strict protection to prevent them falling in the hands of prostitution barons again and their safe departure from Turkey is provided. Contacts are established with the security units of the victims' countries so that they will not fall in the hands of human traffickers again. Information regarding the names of the people and countries through which these women are sent to Turkey are conveyed to the related country.

However, it is found out that human traffickers tried to use the shelter to get residence permits for the foreign women they bring to Turkey from eastern block countries with the purpose of prostitution by presenting them as victims. Interior Ministry Deputy Undersecretary Sebati Buyuran drew attention to the fact that these people claim that they are victims in order to conduct prostitution and similar acts on a comfortable and legal platform. The circular he issued urged (security members) to show utmost sensitivity to enable only real victim foreign women to use the shelters. According to this, only Istanbul liaison point officials will conduct the placement procedures for the women who are determined to be victims and those who are granted settlement document for them to stay in Turkey for a while. Irrelevant people and officials will not be able to participate in this transfer process. Information about where and how this shelter operates will be kept secret. END TEXT.

19. (U) Published on BlackTable.com November 17, 2004 by author Andy Baker:

You are a teenage girl growing up in Estonia. You're dirt poor. Your prospects are dim. One day, you see a want ad in your local newspaper: "Agency seeking young women to work as au pairs. High paying opportunities throughout the European Union and United States."

Encouraged, you meet a local employment agency recruiter for a few interviews and what luck! The agency finds you a job. Not only that, they supply you with a travel visa and plane tickets. Next thing you know, you're on your way to Athens to work as a live-in for a diplomat's family. Life is good. Only you don't make it to Greece. Rather, you wind up in some Serbian backwater where you are starved, beaten and forced into prostitution. Over the next year you service 10 to 15 men a day, earning your Estonian syndicate bosses about \$50,000. In exchange for your labors you receive more beatings, enough food to keep you alive and crappy cigarettes. This is your life.

This is just one out of dozens of true story lines described in the recently released *The Natashas: Inside the New Global Sex Trade* by award-winning, investigative journalist Victor Malarek. Malarek, who writes for Toronto's *The Globe & Mail* and whose television news show *The Fifth Estate* is Canada's answer to 60 Minutes, spent two years researching and dissecting the \$12 billion business of sexual slavery. He calls human trafficking the human rights issue of the new millennium. The Black Table spoke with Malarek recently about child prostitutes and Serbian gangsters.

BT: Have you ever observed a sex slave auction?

VM: Not an auction per se. The worst I've seen is the what goes down in the brothels in Kosovo, where it's totally animalistic. The men, 10 and 20 at a time, literally maul these women.

BT: Your average Russian mobster -- how does he smell?

VM: It's funny, you know, how often the clichés are borne out by the reality. Eastern European thugs especially. But with them it's the dress code. They may live in Greece, Kosovo, Bosnia, Tel Aviv, Rome, Frankfurt, London, you name it, but they all seem to sport leather jacket and buzz cut. It's an intimidating look. If you want to be a pimp you have to intimidate the Johns, too, not just the women. Most smell like cheap cologne, I guess.

BT: What kind of front do these so-called employment agencies put up in order to lure "employees"?

VM: Well first, the ads appear to be officially sanctioned. They're decorated with the American stars and stripes or the Canadian Maple Leaf or the tri-colored flags of Germany, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and so on. In countries like Ukraine, Romania, Russia and the Czech Republic, bogus recruiters will set up offices adjacent to legitimate employment agencies. Some go so far as to hold "career days" at local universities. Of course, not all women fall victim to the spin of phony employment agencies. The first link in the chain is just as often a relative or a boyfriend or some acquaintance in a trusted position.

BT: Kind Uncle Zootroy lined up a job for you in Istanbul?

VM: That's right.

BT: Don't some of these women have an idea of what they're getting into?

VM: There are a number of women who know they're going to go and strip. And there are a certain number who even know they're going to be prostitutes. They're given a story though. And it's almost akin to the movie *Pretty Woman*: Hey, you're gonna do one or two, maximum three men a night. No need to work seven days a week, five is fine. You're going to be making \$5,000 a week that goes directly into your pocket. You can take the week off when you're on your period. And you can say no to any man. What actually happens is a nightmare.

BT: Such as?

VM: Your average trafficked woman does -- is forced to do -- between five and 30 men a day, usually without a condom. (Bareback is especially popular Tel Aviv, where the orthodox clientele are forbidden by their religion to "waste" their semen.) She is kept under lock and key usually in an overstuffed apartment. She is accompanied at all times by a "bodyguard" whose job it is to ensure two things: That she satisfies clients and that she doesn't escape. She works 24/7, 30 days a month, period or no period. She can never say no to a man and cannot say no to an act.

BT: What about madams? Somewhere along the line you must have interviewed women who managed to flip or subvert the power dynamic and, you know, run their own business.

VM: Not one.

BT: Hmm. The New York Times recently did a story on a Korean girl in Jersey City who runs her own very profitable escort service. About all that's bugging her are stomach ulcers.

VM: OK, no Asian woman runs an escort service without a Triad (mafioso) behind her. You see, this is the naiveté sometimes of people. They can front whatever they want to front. And what I have found is that a lot of formerly-trafficked women have suddenly become madams, but they do not control the operation. They are the front. I will defy anyone -- you follow the money that this madam makes and you will see that a large portion of it is going somewhere else. Madams and pimps are field workers.

BT: You mention the "breaking" process in your book.

VM: Yeah, it's a pimp term for the systematic intimidation and disorientation that the women (I say women, but we're talking about mostly 15- through 19-year-olds) are subjected to before they start working in brothels. First they're put in huge debt bondage, told that they must work off travel expenses before they can even think of being let go. They're stripped of their identification and held in a foreign country where they don't know the language. They're told that their families back home are being watched. If they try to run, their mother or father or brother will be beaten or killed. They're then starved and roughed up. You have these apartments in Tel Aviv or in Hamburg and you have a dozen in an apartment or 50, 150 girls in an entire building. And the girls are brought in to the men individually and sometimes in pairs. The men come in, five, six, seven at a time and gang bang them. They call it the "test drive." They show them how to move and what to do. Any girl who tries to fight it, they'll take her and make an absolute example out of her. Often, they'll videotape them in these forced gang bangs and make a porn tape out of it and threaten to send that back home to their village if they get out of line. Most of them just give up.

BT: And the ones who manage to break free and get repatriated?

VM: Well, the sad reality of repatriation is there's nothing waiting for them. Take Moldova, which I call the Haiti of Eastern Europe. They go back to Moldova and there are no treatment programs for them, no rehabilitation programs; there are no therapies, there's nothing for them. Often they have all kinds of STDs. Some of them have HIV. And so they go back to their villages where they're known as: "The whore [who] has come back." After a while, some of them commit suicide.

There are some programs setting up in Kiev and Bucharest and Moscow for when they do return. But they're very few and far between because the governments claim there is little money out there for

rehabilitation. My counterargument to that is the governments of places like Moldova should confront countries like Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Israel and Turkey and say, "When our young women are repatriated from your country and when we know what has happened to them, your government should give us money so we can rehabilitate them."

BT: Sounds doubtful.

VM: Yeah, but you know what? Look at the "comfort women" from South Korea that are now fighting for some kind of retribution or reparation for what the Japanese did to them during the Second World War. Their case is getting heard, so it's not that outlandish.

BT: In The Natashas, you say there have been four waves of human sex slave trafficking, the first three originating respectively in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. Aside from geography, how does the current wave differ from the preceding three?

VM: It's far more brutal and far more organized. When you look at the organized crime syndicates that are involved, in particular the Russian, Estonian and Ukrainian mafias, they've realized what the potential is out there and there seems to be this incredible, insatiable desire for these kinds of women. It's the speed of this thing as well. In 1991 the Iron Curtain crumbles, the wall comes down, democracy sort of rushes into the former Soviet states and this huge market suddenly opens up and it's vast.

BT: If I brought this subject up in company, many people would find it tawdry, maybe even a little bit banal. Period. Why should anyone care?

VM: I've always been one that gets really upset with respect to abuse. My whole life has been one that looks at child abuse issues. That largely is driven by my own childhood. I grew up in the child welfare system and protection system in Quebec. I was put in foster homes and boys homes and I was a first-hand victim and first-hand observer of major abuse of kids. When I got into journalism, that's one of the areas I keyed in on. That sort of stays with me all the time when I look at any issue.

I think we should care because these are girls and young women who are being raped. We're not talking about voluntary choices. These are girls who are being forced into absolutely hellish existences, all for the pleasure of men. We look at these young women who are on the streets and we make these snap judgments. We think: Whore. But we don't look beyond the stilettos and miniskirt to ask what lead this person to this point in their life?

Now, when I look at U.S. State Department statistics, U.N. statistics, Europol and International Organization for Migration statistics and the consensus is that there are 800,000 to 1 million of these young women trafficked every year, well there's no way in hell that a million of these young women are lining up for this. That's all it takes for me to care. I've been a journalist for 35 years, been in wars and famines and all kinds of deep shit and I'm not hardened. I take it personally. I can't sit back because one day, who knows, it could happen to my daughter or your sister. You have to protect those in society who can't defend themselves and that's children and senior citizens.

BT: So you've interviewed hundreds of these trafficked women. Is there anything weird about being a guy and covering this subject?

VM: It's a stupid thing but you feel guilty for mankind, you know? And yeah, in interviewing young female victims and discovering the world of shit they've been living in I've sometimes felt guilty as a man because it's men who are responsible for their suffering. But it wasn't me.

BT: OK, but you're dealing with young, pretty girls who're incredibly vulnerable. How do you keep from feeling in some way like you're crossing a line, being just one more intruder?

VM: I'm surprised and not surprised when people open up to me. My wife and several of my friends have said to me that children and people who have gone through hell seem to have a sympathetic ear for me. I remember being in Costa Rica, in a place where young girls had been rescued off the streets and I was talking to the woman who was running it, Mara, and she told me a horrific story about this 9-year-old girl who was made to service hundreds of men orally and was beaten if she

didn't swallow. As a result of the trauma she could no longer consume cheeses, milk, eggs, ice cream or any dairy because it was too much of a reminder. She flat out refused to speak to anyone. She was very afraid, but especially terrified of men. She'd gone mute, essentially.

Later on in the day we were in the main yard which, by the way, is guarded by a man with an AK-47 because several times the pimps have tried to charge the safe house to get these young girls back. [O]ne little girl came up to me and we started to talk and she had a beautiful smile. She was a beautiful young lady and she was speaking to me in Spanish and saying she would like to learn English and just chatting. Eventually I noticed Mara was staring at me and I asked her, "Is anything wrong?" She said, "That's the girl I was telling you about. She doesn't talk to anybody."

For some reason, people come up and talk to me. They open up to me.

BT: You're described often as a "crusader" journalist. Is "crusader" a modifier you embrace?

VM: Eh, I'm one of these guys who charges into places with a sword. And again it goes back to nobody swung a sword for me as a kid. And I decided that rather than be another self-fulfilling prophecy, you know, destined to be a bad kid, I'd try and change things for myself and maybe others.

BT: There's a movie on you. Is it any good?

VM: Yeah, I guess. After it came out I got this rep for being an angry young man, you know? People today ask me if that's still the case and I say, "No. I'm an angry middle aged man."

110. (U) Published November 12, 2004 by Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Border patrol and Jandarma captured 126 foreigners as attemptd to illegally cross the border in Edirne.

Along the border in the Ipsala and Meric sub-provinces, authorities captured 56 Pakistanis, 53 Iraqis, nine Somalis, six Afghanis and two Mauritians.

The foreigners were turned over to the Foreigners Department of the Edirne Police for deportation. END TEXT.

111. (U) Published November 12, 2004 by Radio Free Europe:

TITLE: World: Child Sex Trade Becoming Lucrative, Pan-Asian Epidemic; By Antoine Bluea

BEGIN TEXT: The United Nations estimates that more than 1 million children around the world enter the global sex trade every year. The children are tricked or lured away from their families and are often taken abroad. In some cases, they are forced to service more than 10 customers per night, and are also used to feed the exploding popularity of child pornography over the Internet.

Prague, 12 November 2004 (RFE/RL) -- Police in the southern Kazakh city of Shymkent said this week that they have broken a human trafficking ring in which young girls would have been sold into prostitution.

They say they prevented the sale of eight girls -- the oldest was 17 -- to the Persian Gulf after receiving a tip-off last month.

Police spokesman Erkin Inkarov tells RFE/RL that recruiters had promised the girls well-paid jobs abroad.

"[They] kept eight girls for sexual exploitation, [saying to them]: 'Well, if you want to get jobs abroad, we have an opportunity to employ you there.' And they started arranging passports [and travel documents] for them," Inkarov said.

The Central Asian republics are a source, transit point, and destination country for people trafficked from other countries in the region. Most of the victims are trafficked to Russia, the Persian Gulf, Turkey, East Asia, and Europe.

The issue is of particular concern in Tajikistan, which is still struggling to recover from its five-year civil war, which left many people desperate to find better

economic prospects abroad.

Gulchehra Mirzoeva is head of Modar (Mother), a Tajik nongovernmental organization focusing on women's rights. She notes that the sex slavery trade also affects young boys.

"We've spoken to six pimps, [and] one of them said that Arabs recently asked to send young boys. According to [the pimp], Arabs prefer young boys between 12 and 14 with blue eyes. Their skin can be either light or dark. The price of the boys depends on that," Mirzoeva said.

Meeting this week in the capital, Bangkok, officials from the United Nations and 20 East Asia-Pacific countries admitted that child trafficking is getting worse despite changes in laws and government policies.

Gopalan Balagopal, a senior adviser to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, spoke to Reuters about the problem.

"We see that children are continuing to be sexually exploited. And children are continuing to be trafficked. There's a whole lot of material on the Internet which is directly connected to the sexual exploitation of children," Balagopal said.

Thailand has long had a reputation for its sex trade.

Young girls from Southeast Asia are lured to Thailand with promises of lucrative jobs, only to end up in massage parlors and karaoke bars where prostitution is rampant.

Recently, six teenage girls were found cowered inside dark, grimy rooms after they were rescued in a brothel in northern Thailand. The girls, most of whom had been smuggled across the border from impoverished Myanmar, were covered in bruises and cigarette burns inflicted by drunken customers. One girl even had duct tape across her mouth to stop her from screaming.

Ben Svasti, from the anti-trafficking group Traficord, says the case is one of the most horrific memories he has of his time on the frontlines in the fight against child trafficking.

"A young child is not yet ready to have sex physically or mentally. And you're being faced by a customer who wants to take your virginity. He's probably paid a lot of money for it. And he's often drunk. And he's brutal. And that is just the most horrific ordeal for any child [and] any woman to have to go through," Svasti said. Thailand's child-trafficking business is believed to amount to some \$2.5 billion a year.

New technologies, including the Internet, digital cameras, and mobile phones, have increased the spread of child pornography, the demand for it, and the risks for children of sexual exploitation. National laws have not kept pace with these trends. Most countries in the region do not have laws that refer specifically to child pornography, and few criminalize its mere possession.

(Sojida Djakhfarova from RFE/RL's Tajik Service; Merhat Sharipzhanov, director of RFE/RL's Kazakh Service; and Reuters contributed to this report.) END TEXT.

12. (U) Published November 11, 2004 by Turkish language Anaolian News Agency:

TITLE: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 11 IN BOAT ACCIDENT IN AEGEAN

BEGIN TEXT: IZMIR (A.A) - "We recovered body of one more illegal migrant off Doganbey district in Aegean Sea," said Seferihisar Sub-Governor Mehmet Godekmerdan on Friday.

Nine illegal migrants drowned and three others survived when a boat carrying 20 people capsized and sank off Doganbey hamlet of Seferihisar town in western city of Izmir on Wednesday.

Coast Guard teams found one body in open sea yesterday. There are still 5 missing people.

There were a total of 1 Turkish citizen, 6 Somalians and 13 Mauritians aboard the boat. END TEXT.

13. (U) Published November 11, 2004 by the Southeast European Times:

BEGIN TEXT: According to an annual report conducted by

Greek police forces and sent to Europol, authorities investigated 157 cases of organised crime during 2003. Fourteen types of crime were recorded, ranging from relatively minor ones -- such as insider betting and illegal trading of cultural products -- to extremely serious ones, including drug smuggling, blackmail, forgery, child pornography and human trafficking.

Organised crime groups are generally structured according to nationality, with members of a particular nationality usually engaging in the same type of crime, the report found. Of the groups reported in Greece, none are sufficiently organised to engage in international operations.

According to the police, Albanian crime groups are the best-organised and most violent, as well as the most likely to collaborate with Greeks. They are mainly involved in cross-border drug smuggling, human trafficking, thefts, robberies and illegal immigration. Despite the notoriety of Albanian organised crime, however, the report found that the number of Albanian citizens in Greece who are involved in criminal activity is relatively small. Only 1 out of every 3,000 have been convicted in a criminal case.

Bulgarian crime groups in Greece engage in counterfeiting, forgery, human trafficking and drug dealing, the report said. Crime groups from Macedonia, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran and China are mostly involved in cases of illegal immigration. Russian and Ukrainian groups deal mainly in cigarette smuggling and the sex trade.

Most of the groups' members use modern technology to expand and broaden their operations and to elude police. To differing degrees, all groups use physical brutality to ensure internal cohesion and to intimidate victims. END TEXT.